(ग) और (घ) उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Restructuring of CPWD

3657. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group of the Planning Commission, had recommended in 1990, the restructuring of the top setup of the Central Public Works Department, with a view to imparting greater autonomy of the Department;

(b) if so, the precise recommendations of the group and whether the same were accepted by Government; and

(c) what steps have since been taken for implementation thereof and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The working Group had recommended the conversion of the top structure of CPWD into a Central Public Works Board. The reconstruction of the CPWD into a Board on the lines of Railway Board/Telecommunication Board has not been considered feasible due to following reasons:—

(i) That CPWD is not a commercial organisation and it does not provide any service to the public. The CPWD is mainly a construction management agency which takes up the civil works of the Central Government except Finance, Railways, Atomic Energy etc. The works executed by the CPWD are broadly classified into three categories. The first category relates to the works which are financed from the plan provision of the Department of Urban Development and these comprises construction of general pool office and residential accommodation. The second category comprises of works pertaining to other Ministries/Departments of the Government for which funds are also provided under the demands-for-grants for the CPWD but distinctly for each Ministry/Department. In the third category, the CPWD undertakes the deposit works from autonomous organisations, institutions, etc. In fact, the major part of the work load of CPWD comprises of the later two categories of works. The CPWD draws its budget from more than 30 Ministries/Departments for which administrative financial sanctions have to be accorded by the Ministries concerned. The CPWD even if converted into a Board would not be in a position to accord administrative and financial sanctions for works belonging to other Departments and the very rationale of converting CPWD into a Board would be lost. This would be evident from the fact that nearly 60% of the works executed by the CPWD pertain to other Ministries/Departments. During 1995-96, out of Rs. 1500 crores of works executed by the CPWD, works costing Rs. 940 crores pertained to other Ministries. The CPWD cannot even decided the *inter-se* priorities as these are to be decided by the respective Ministries/Departments.

(ii) The DG(W), CPWD, has already been delegated full powers to award works. Even for administrative and financial sanctions, only those cases come to the Ministry where construction of general pool office/residential accommodation is involved.

This matter was recently examined by the Fifth Pay Commission also which did not agree with the idea of converting CPWD into a Board.